

Senate Armed Services Committee: Defense Overseers

by Deborah M. Kyle

INITS REPORT ON FY82 Defense authorization, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) stressed the importance of its "commitment to defense programs—not to a defense funding level—that is essential." The Committee went on to approve the largest Defense Authorization Bill ever.

With this issue, *AFJ* begins a series of updated biographical profiles of the power brokers on both sides of Capitol Hill who serve on those committees responsible for overseeing defense issues. This month the *Journal* spotlights SASC; 17 men who superintend DoD's annual budget authorization requests.

Control of SASC shifted to a Republican majority after 26 years of Democratic leadership with the Republican Senatorial election sweep in 1980. Today, nine Republicans and eight Democrats serve on SASC. (One independent, Sen. Harry

F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia, formally a Democrat and elected as an independent in 1976, is for the purpose of minority/majority assignments listed under Democratic groupings.) Of those, no Republicans face reelection contests this year. On the new minority side, however, SASC's four senior Democrats will. And, of those four, only three will run for another six-year term. Last December Byrd announced his plans to retire at the close of the 97th Congress. (In 1984, 66% or six of those Republicans currently serving on SASC will face reelection bids, the other three in 1986. Of those SASC Democrats whose terms don't expire this year, three face reelection races in 1984 and one in 1986.)

Last year, SASC hearings on the FY82 Defense Authorization Bill resulted in 4,385 pages and seven volumes of hearing testimony before the Committee approved a final authorization bill. It's still

too early to predict how SASC will react to the \$258-billion budget DoD sent to Capitol Hill last month (see p. 48). But two variables will surely have an impact on this year's budget: the pending November elections, for which Congress wants to clean house and pass legislation as expeditiously as possible, to recess by September for last effort campaigning. In addition, a new Congressional force known as the Military Reform Caucus (MRC) has sprung up. MRC is a bipartisan forum designed to rethink and update current and future US defense policy.

A growing concern, the MRC counts five members of the Senate Armed Services Committee among its ranks: Sens. William Cohen (R-ME), Gary Hart (D-CO), Carl Levin (D-MI), Sam Nunn (D-GA), and John Warner (R-VA). (Those Senators facing reelection in November are starred in text.)

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Harry F. Byrd, Jr. (I-VA)★

After 17 years on Capitol Hill, Sen. Byrd, 67, will retire at the close of this session of the 97th Congress.

Although a supporter of stronger US defense and a backer of Reagan Administration initiatives to boost US defense spending—especially for Navy programs—Byrd recently echoed a growing concern in Congress that for FY83, even the President's defense budget won't survive intact.

Byrd attended the Virginia Military Institute and later the University of Virginia. He served in the Naval Reserves from 1941 to 1946, and during World War II was an executive officer of a bombing patrol squadron over the Central and Western Pacific. He held the rank of lieutenant commander.

In 1947, Byrd was elected to his first public office as a Virginia Democratic state senator. Eighteen years later, in 1965, he was chosen to succeed his father as the US Senator from his home state. A Democrat until 1970—although for the purpose of Capitol Hill committee assignments he is still grouped with the Democrats—Byrd is the only Senator in US history to be twice elected as an independent. In 1970 he was elected with 54% of Virginia's votes, and six years later Byrd defeated former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt with 57% of votes cast.

During the first session of the 97th Con-



gress, Virginia's senior Senator voted for the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia, for B-1 procurement, as well as to continue M-X research and development funding. In that same session he opposed development of the C-X transport, reactivation of the aircraft carrier *Oriskany*, and increases in military enlistment bonuses.

On Armed Services, Byrd is a member of the Tactical Warfare, Sea Power and Force Projection, and Manpower and Personnel Subcommittees.

Rm. 133 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-3954

Howard W. Cannon (D-NV)★

Sen. Cannon, 70, has spent nearly two and a half decades representing Nevada in the US Senate and faces reelection this November.

A retired major general in the Air Force Reserves, Cannon spent five years in active duty during World War II, 22 months of which were overseas. During that time he was shot down over occupied Holland but avoided capture for the 42 days it took him to reach Allied lines. Included in his many military decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal with Two Oak-Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart.

A graduate of Utah's Dixie Junior College, Cannon holds an LLB from the University of Arizona. From 1938 to 1940 he served as reference attorney to Utah's state senate. The following year he was county attorney for Washington County, Utah. On return from military service in

1946, Cannon set up a private law practice in Las Vegas. From 1949 to 1958, when he was elected a US Senator from Nevada, Cannon was Las Vegas' city attorney.

In all four of his Senate bids, Cannon has received no less than 50% of the votes cast. In 1958 he registered a 58% majority to win his Senate seat. In 1960 50%, followed by 58% in 1970, and his highest tally ever in 1976, 63% of the votes.

During the first session of this 97th Congress, Nevada's senior Senator co-sponsored legislation to reinstitute Selective Service. He opposed the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia, as well.

Cannon is assigned to the Military Construction, Tactical Warfare, and Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces Subcommittees of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Rm. 176 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-6244

William S. Cohen (R-ME)

Considered a liberal Republican during his three terms as a member of the US House of Representatives, Sen. Cohen, 41, has moved further right, particularly on defense issues, since he won a Senate seat in 1978. Cohen was an opponent of the SALT II agreements, and is an advocate of hard line tactics in dealing with the Soviets.



A 1963 graduate of Bowdoin College, ME, Cohen received his LLB from Boston University Law School in 1965. Maine's junior Senator was a practicing attorney prior to his 1969 election as a Bangor city councilman. Two years later he was chosen mayor of that city, serving only until 1972, when he won election to Congress representing Maine's 2nd District. In 1978 he made a bid for the US Senate, winning the seat with 56% of the votes.

During the first session of the 97th Congress, Cohen introduced legislation to reinstate GI Bill educational benefits.

With a hefty portion of the FY83 defense budget earmarked for naval procurement programs, as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Sea Power and Force Projection Subcommittee, Cohen sits in a powerful position. He is also a member of the Committee's Strategic Theater and Nuclear Forces and the Manpower and Personnel Subcommittees.

Rm. 1251 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-2523

Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr. (R-AL)

Sen. Denton, 57, is one of the SASC's strongest voices calling for enhancement of US defense capability—and now.

A 1946 Annapolis graduate, Denton served as a Navy pilot, flight instructor, and squadron leader with 31 years of active military duty. In 1964 he earned an MA in international relations from George Washington University. The following year he was in Vietnam and while on maneuvers was shot down, taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese, and spent the next seven and a half years as a prisoner of war. Among his numerous military decorations, Denton holds the Navy Cross, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and three Silver Stars. Upon his return to the US in 1973, as a rear admiral, he took command of the Armed Forces Staff College, a position held until his retirement in 1977.

That year he founded the nonprofit organization Coalition for Decency and served as a consultant to the president of the Christian Broadcasting Network.

In 1980, Denton was the first Republican in this century to win a Senate race in Alabama. During his first term, Denton co-sponsored legislation to fund research and development for reactivation of the battleship *Iowa*, supported the US sale of AWACS as a "responsible initiative," and voted against an amendment deleting FY82 funding for the B-1B.



On the Armed Services, Denton served on the Manpower and Personnel, Military Construction, and Sea Power and Force Projection Subcommittees.

Rm. 5327 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-5744

J. James Exon (D-NB)

Exon, 60, has a mixed record on how he votes on defense issues, but in general is considered pro-defense. Last session Exon sponsored legislation increasing Army readiness funding, specifically for ammunition inventories as well as Army modernization in general. During that same session, however, he voted against the C-X cargo transport. An early opponent of the C-X, Exon has charged that it was both inadequate to meet airlift needs and too expensive.

Exon attended the University of Omaha and in 1942 joined the Army Signal Corps as a private. During his three-year military tour, the junior Senator from Nebraska fought in Japan, the Philippines, and New Guinea before being discharged as a master sergeant. Exon spent the next four years in the Army Reserves.

In 1946 he went to work for the Universal Finance Corp. Nine years later he founded and became president of Exon's Inc., an office equipment supply firm. In 1970 he won the first of two terms as Nebraska governor. In 1978, Exon ran for the Senate and won with 68% of the vote.

His Armed Services Committee assignments include Military Construction, Manpower and Personnel, and the Strategic Theater and Nuclear Forces Subcommittees.

Rm. 3313 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-4224

Barry Goldwater (R-AZ)

During SASC FY83 budget hearings last month, SASC chairman Sen. John Tower (R-TX) referred to him as "our oldest living aviator." A 24-year Senate veteran, Barry Goldwater, 72, is truly regarded as the Armed Services Committee's expert when it comes to aircraft-related issues.

A retired USAF Reserves major general who also served in the Army Air Corps (1941-1945), Goldwater was the first non-rated test pilot to fly the U-2, SR-71, and the B-1. Most recently, he test flew NASA and Bell Helicopter's developmental tilt rotor aircraft.

Goldwater attended the University of



Arizona and holds an honorary doctorate in aeronautics science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

First elected to the US Senate in 1952, Arizona's senior Senator has served continuously except for an interruption in 1964 when he ran for President on the Republican ticket.

A strong pro-defense advocate, Goldwater chairs the Committee's Tactical Warfare Subcommittee and is a member of the Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces and the Preparedness Subcommittees.

Rm. 337 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-2235

Gary Hart (D-CO)

Hart, 45, a longtime advocate for revamping US military defense policy, is playing a new role in defense these days as Senate leader of the new bipartisan Military Reform Caucus.

In addition, Hart actively espouses the need to move toward a lighter, faster, more mobile maritime force directly in opposition to the large carrier fleet the Reagan Administration is asking Congress to fund.

A graduate of Bethany College, Hart also holds a BD and LLB from Yale University's Divinity and Law schools, respectively. In the early '60s, he worked first as a lawyer in the Justice Department, then as special assistant to then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Hart moved on to Denver and private law practice at the close of the Johnson Administration, only to become involved a short time later in George McGovern's 1972 campaign for President. Hart served as McGovern's national campaign director. McGovern lost, but in 1974 Hart ran for the Senate and won with 57% of the votes. During that term Hart served as a Congressional advisor to the SALT negotiations. Six years later he survived the Republican sweep of 1980 to just win reelection with 50% of the votes cast.

On Armed Services, Hart serves on the Military Construction, Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces, and Sea Power and Force Projection Subcommittees.

Rm. 221 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-5852

Gordon J. Humphrey (R-NH)

Sen. Humphrey, 40, is a conservative who backs a strong US defense posture. As a member of the New Hampshire Conservative Caucus prior to his Senate victory, Humphrey actively fought the Carter Administration's Panama Canal treaty.

Humphrey attended George Washington University and the University of



Maryland. He joined the Air Force in 1958 and was honorably discharged in 1962. In 1964, he began a one-year stint as a civilian ferry pilot delivering light aircraft in the US and South America. From 1966 to 1967, Humphrey was a pilot for Universal Air Transport. In 1967 he joined Allegheny Airlines where he was a pilot for nine years.

In the 1978 Senatorial race, Humphrey, who had never run for public office, outmaneuvered then chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Research and Development Subcommittee, Sen. Thomas McIntyre, to win by a 51% margin with a 6,000-vote edge.

On Armed Services, the New Hampshire senior Senator is chairman of the Preparedness Subcommittee and sits on the Military Construction and the Sea Power and Force Projection Subcommittees as well.

Rm. 6205 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-2841

Henry M. Jackson (D-WA)★

An early achiever, Jackson, 69, has held his Senate seat for three decades and before that served 12 years in the House of Representatives.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, the senior Senator from Washington state has earned a reputation as a strong pro-defense supporter, and a Soviet hard-liner often referred to as the watchdog of US-Soviet relations. Jackson is a proponent of arms reductions in both strategic and conventional capabilities and has been uncompromising of what he views as unsuccessful SALT agreements.

In 1935, at the age of 23, Jackson received his LLB from the University of Washington. Three years later he was prosecuting attorney for Snohomusk County, WA. In 1940, he was elected to the House of Representatives from Washington's 2nd District. With the outbreak of World War II, Jackson interrupted his Congressional service and joined the Army as a private.

In 1952, he was elected to the Senate with 56% of the votes, a number he has consistently topped in all his reelection bids. In his last three Senatorial races, Jackson pulled 72%, 82%, and 72% of the votes for 1964, 1970, and 1976, respectively. In the course of his public career, Jackson has run unsuccessfully for President—once in 1972 and in 1976. This



Democrat's pro-defense identity has won him consideration for top defense posts in two Republican Administrations. Nixon offered to make him Defense Secretary in 1968, and there was speculation that President Reagan would name Jackson to that post in this Administration. Neither came to fruition.

Jackson serves on the Armed Services Military Construction, Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces, and Preparedness Subcommittees.

Rm. 137 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-3441

Roger W. Jepsen (R-IA)

During his first term, Sen. Jepsen, 53, has been a proponent of hiking defense manpower pay and benefits to keep the All Volunteer Force healthy. In fact, Jepsen voted against draft registration but sponsored FY82 legislation increasing pay and allowances for military personnel.

In 1946, Jepsen joined the Army, serving two years as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. Upon discharge in 1948, he joined the Army Reserves and was an active member until 1960. He received the rank of captain.

From 1956 to 1972, Iowa's senior Senator was branch manager of the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. In 1973 he moved to Agridustrial Electronics Company as a vice president. Three years later he became president of a marketing company.

Concurrent with his private career, Jepsen served in various elected public offices. From 1962 to 1965 he was a member of Scott County's Board of Supervisors. In 1967 he was elected to Iowa's state senate. Two years later he became lieutenant governor where he served until 1973.

Out of office until 1978, Jepsen won his US Senate seat with a 51% margin.

On Armed Services he chairs the Manpower and Personnel Subcommittee and sits on the Tactical Warfare and Preparedness Subcommittees.

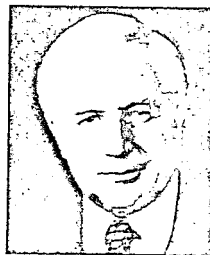
Rm. 110 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-3254

Carl Levin (D-MI)

During his first term, Sen. Levin, 47, has earned a reputation as a tough scrutinizer of DoD's budget and policy, demanding accountability across the board.

A 1956 graduate of Swarthmore College, Levin earned his LLB from Harvard in 1959.

Following several years of private legal work, Levin was appointed assistant attorney general and general counsel for the



Michigan Civil Rights Commission in 1964. Three years later he was Michigan's special assistant attorney general and chief appellate defender for Detroit's City Council, serving as its president from 1973 to 1978. Levin won his 1978 Senatorial bid with 52% of the vote.

In the first session of the 97th Congress, Michigan's junior Senator sponsored legislation adding funds to the FY82 budget for four additional KC-10 tanker/cargo aircraft as well as an amendment requiring advance Congressional approval before Defense could spend any authorized funds on basing modes for the M-X missile.

Levin is a member of the Armed Services Tactical Warfare and Preparedness Subcommittees.

Rm. 140 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-6221

Sam S. Nunn (D-GA)

Congress has long complained about being the last to know of cost overruns on development and procurement of defense hardware. Nunn, 43, did something about it. Georgia's senior Senator sponsored an amendment to the FY82 Defense Authorization Bill, requiring DoD and the Services to report to Congress as soon as a program reaches a 15% increase in cost over levels projected in the March 31, 1981, Selected Acquisition Report. This initiative guarantees Congress will be aware of defense equipment costs on a more regular, and thus controllable, basis.

Nunn is a graduate of Georgia Tech and Emory University School of Law.

From 1959 to 1960 he served in the Coast Guard and spent the next eight years in the Coast Guard Reserves. In 1962 at the age of 24, he served one year as legal counsel to the Senate Armed Services Committee. In 1968, Nunn was elected to the first of two terms as a Georgia state representative. Four years later he was elected to the US Senate to fill the unexpired term of Richard Russ. In 1978, Nunn won reelection by a hefty majority—83% of the votes.

During his tenure on Armed Services, Nunn has acquired a reputation as a defense expert on and long-time advocate for beefing up pay and benefits for military personnel. It was Nunn who successfully co-sponsored an FY81 bill with Sen. John Warner (R-VA) to provide military compensation and benefits hikes.

Nunn is a member of the Armed Services Strategic and Theater Nuclear



Forces, Sea Power and Force Projection and Military Personnel Subcommittees.

Rm. 3741 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-3521

Dan Quayle (R-IN)

A one-term veteran of the House of Representatives, Quayle, 35, is pro-defense although he's yet to carve out his specific area of expertise.

Quayle graduated from DePauw University in 1968, and earned his JD from Indiana University in 1974.

From 1969 to 1971 he served as chief investigator in the consumer protection division of the office of Indiana's attorney general. Quayle spent the next two years as an administrative aide in the Indiana governor's office. He was appointed director of Indiana's Department of Revenues, Inheritance Tax Division, in 1973. The following year he became attorney and associate publisher of the *Huntington Herald Press*.

Elected to the US House of Representatives in 1977, Quayle managed an upset victory over then incumbent Birch Bayh to win a seat in the US Senate in 1980.

On defense issues, for the most part, Indiana's junior Senator backs the Reagan Administration. On big ticket items last year, Quayle voted for the B-1, M-X, and AWACS. As for the FY83 Defense budget, Quayle has noted DoD better start looking for places to cut.

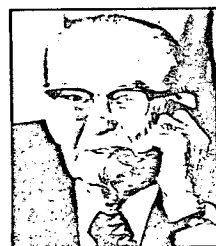
On Armed Services, he is a member of the Strategic Nuclear and Theater Forces and the Sea Power and Force Projection Subcommittees.

Rm. 254 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-5623

John C. Stennis (D-MS)★

Although the Democrats no longer control the Senate, Stennis, 80, is still his party's senior representative on two of the most powerful committees in the Senate: Armed Services and the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. Mississippi's senior Senator is the oldest member of the Senate and has been on Capitol Hill since 1947.

Stennis graduated from Mississippi State University and earned his LLB from the University of Virginia in 1928. That same year he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives. In 1931 and 1935 he was elected to serve as district prosecuting attorney for the 16th Judicial District.



Stennis was appointed circuit judge in 1937. The following year he was elected to the first of three four-year terms in that office. However, Stennis opted to run for Mississippi's junior Senate seat in 1947 and won a special election with 27% of the votes. In 1970 he pulled 88% of the votes and in 1976 he ran unopposed.

Throughout his tenure, Stennis has been recognized as a leader in efforts to strengthen national defense more by supporting DoD budget requests than by formulating policy.

Rm. 205 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-6253

Strom Thurmond (R-SC)

Sen. Thurmond, 79, a conservative, is not known as a proponent of any specific defense issue; he simply supports the Pentagon to the limit.

With the Republican ascent to power in 1980, Thurmond became President Pro Tem of the Senate.

South Carolina's senior Senator did his undergraduate work and law studies at Clemson College. In 1933 he was elected a member of South Carolina's state senate.

Thurmond is a retired major general in the US Army Reserves. During World War II he served with the First Army in Europe and the Pacific Theaters. He has five battle stars and 18 decorations including the Legion of Merit Award.

In 1947 Thurmond was elected Governor of South Carolina. Seven years later he came to the US Senate—the first person ever elected via a write-in vote. In his last election Thurmond pulled 56% of the vote.

On Armed Services, Thurmond chairs the Military Construction Subcommittee and serves on the Tactical Warfare and Strategic Theater and Nuclear Forces Subcommittees.

Rm. 209 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-5972

John S. Tower (R-TX)

One of the most powerful men on Capitol Hill is Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Tower, 56, an acknowledged expert of military affairs who plays a leading role in the formulation of today's US defense policy.

A graduate of Southwestern University, Tower holds an MA from Southern Methodist University.

From 1951 to 1960, Texas' senior Senator was a political science professor at



Texas' Midwestern University. In 1960 when Lyndon Johnson became Vice President, Tower was elected to fill Johnson's vacant Senate seat. In his most recent re-election (1978) Tower won by 10,000 votes with a 1% advantage over his adversary. In years of service, Tower is second only to Thurmond in Senate Republican seniority. In his only other bid for political office, Tower ran for the Texas State Legislature in 1954 and lost.

Upon assuming chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee, Tower reorganized the subcommittees into panels which oversee specific research and procurement requests by military missions.

Rm. 142 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Tel: (202) 224-2934

John W. Warner (R-VA)

With the retirement of Sen. Harry F. Byrd, (I-VA), Warner, 55, becomes Virginia's senior Senator.

All totaled, Warner served four years' active military duty. From 1944 to 1946 he served in the Navy as a 3rd-class electronics technician. During the Korean War (1950-1952) he joined the Marines and served as a 1st lieutenant and communications officer with the 1st Marines airlift wing.

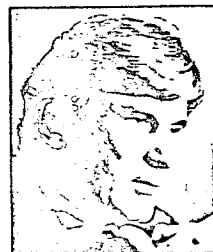
A 1949 graduate of Washington and Lee University, Warner earned his LLB from the University of Virginia in 1952.

From 1953 to 1954, Warner clerked for the US Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge E. Barrett Prettyman. After three years' private practice, he became assistant US attorney, trial and appellate division. In 1960 Warner returned to private practice specializing in securities and corporate affairs. Nine years later, in the Nixon Administration, Warner went to the Pentagon, first as Under Secretary of the Navy (1969 to 1972) and then as Navy Secretary (1972 to 1974). From 1974 to 1976, Warner served as Administrator of the American Bicentennial Administration.

Elected to the Senate with 50% of the votes cast, just over a 4,000-vote margin, Warner has wasted no time in his first term identifying himself as a proponent of a strong defense budget for hardware and people. Along with Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) Warner co-sponsored legislation providing an increase in military compensation benefits in FY81.

On the Armed Services, Warner is chairman of the Strategic Theater Nuclear Forces Subcommittee and sits on the Military Construction and Tactical Warfare Subcommittees.

Rm. 405 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
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